

THE EVENING GROSBEEK (*HESPERIPHONA VESPERTINA*) IN MAINE, WITH REMARKS ON ITS DISTRIBUTION.

BY ARTHUR H. NORTON.

LIKE the other states east of New York, Maine, so far as known, was first visited by the Evening Grosbeak during the well chronicled flight of 1889-90,<sup>1</sup> when between the dates of Jan. 10 and March 18, 1890 six specimens were detected according to the following records: A male was seen at Orono, Feb. 28, 1890;<sup>2</sup> two were seen at Bangor, one a female having been taken, March 18, 1890.<sup>3</sup> One was taken by S. L. Crosby "near Bangor" in the spring of 1890;<sup>4</sup> a male was taken at Bates College campus, Lewiston, Jan. 10, 1890;<sup>5</sup> and a specimen was taken at Fryeburg, without data being preserved.<sup>6</sup>

During the next nineteen years no report appears for this state, though the birds were detected east of New York in very small numbers on several occasions, as Massachusetts during the season of 1903-04,<sup>7</sup> and in Connecticut in 1905 and 1907.<sup>8</sup>

In the late winter or early spring of 1909 an adult male was taken in the Woodfords section of Portland.<sup>9</sup>

Since that time its occurrence in Maine has been frequent and during the winters of 1915-1916 and 1916-1917, it was actually abundant, and widely distributed.

On November 10, 1910 Miss Adeline Willis saw three in Bridgton.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See especially Auk, 1890, Vol. VII. Forest and Stream, 1890, Vol. XXXIV. Ornithologist and Oölogist, 1890, Vol. XV. Also Butler, Auk, 1892, IX: 238-247, and Proc. Canadian Inst. 1890-91, iii, pp. 76-89.

<sup>2</sup> 1890: Fernald, Orn. & OöL. XV: 46.

<sup>3</sup> 1890: Shepherd, OöL. VII: 86.

<sup>4</sup> 1890: Call, OöL. VII: 252.

<sup>5</sup> 1891: Walter, Birds of Androscoggin Co., 14.

<sup>6</sup> 1897: Knight, Bull. 3, U. of M., 89. Knight also reported, one, p. 90, "Seen by S. L. Crosby" which was taken at Brewer, but with the probability that it is the same bird recorded by Call 1890, I have not treated it as a separate record.

<sup>7</sup> 1904: Nichols, Auk, XXI: 81, and Brown, *Ibid.*, 385.

<sup>8</sup> 1905: Hutchins, Bird Lore VII: 173, 174. 1907: Bruen, Wils. Bull. XIX: 162.

<sup>9</sup> 1909: Rich, Journ. Me. Orn. Soc. XI: 26.

<sup>10</sup> 1911: Willis, Bird-Lore, XIII: 93. Unfortunately this record was editorially anticipated, Bird-Lore, XIII: 48, and given as Naples.

In 1912-13 another flight to the northeastern states was noticed and though not a large one, the following Maine reports came to hand:— A flock at Machias in November, 1912, was seen by Mr. John Powers and positively identified, and some numbers were observed elsewhere in Washington, and in Aroostook Counties that winter.<sup>1</sup> The same season Miss Harriette Abbott recorded a flock of twenty at Fairfield (in the Kennebec Valley), March 2 which remained about three weeks.<sup>2</sup> On March 22, 1913, Mrs. Wm. I. Hacker saw three females in a Rowan tree by her window in the Deering Center section of Portland. On the same date and for several succeeding days, on the grounds of the Swedenborgian church in Bath, Miss Nellie F. Dunton reports several as having been seen. On March 29, 1913 Mrs. F. M. Ray observed an adult male and four dull colored companions in Saccarappa Cemetery, Westbrook, and on April 1 she found eleven there, two of which were adult males. A few hours later with her guidance, I saw nine at the same place, one being an adult male. Mrs. Ray kept a careful watch but saw no more until April 3 when the birds made their last appearance there for the season.

The following season, 1913-14, Mr. Freelan Howe reported fourteen at South Paris, late in December,<sup>3</sup> while Mr. Nathan C. Brown observed and recorded seven at Western Cemetery, Portland, on April 16, 1914.<sup>4</sup>

The season of 1915-1916 was remarkable for the great migration of Evening Grosbeaks, extending from Minnesota<sup>5</sup> to St. Stephen, New Brunswick,<sup>6</sup> and from Montreal<sup>7</sup> to Pennsylvania.<sup>8</sup>

The reports from New York and the New England states, for this winter published in 'The Auk' and 'Bird-Lore' are too numerous to mention in this connection. Throughout Maine, where reports could be obtained, the birds were observed in various numbers, showing that very large numbers visited the State. The following extracts from letters will show something of the extent

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<sup>1</sup> W. L. Powers in letter.

<sup>2</sup> 1913: Abbott, *Bird-Lore*, XV: 309.

<sup>3</sup> 1914: Howe, *Bird-Lore*, XVI: 27.

<sup>4</sup> 1915: Brown, *Auk*, XXXII: 102.

<sup>5</sup> 1916: Roberts, *Occ. Papers Geol. & N. H. Surv. Minn., Zool. Div. No. 1.*

<sup>6</sup> 1916: Burnett, *Bird-Lore*, XVIII: 180.

<sup>7</sup> 1916: Gammell, *Can. Rec. Sci.* IX: 483-488.

<sup>8</sup> 1916: Gage, *Auk*, XXXIII: 325.

of this migration, and of the numbers of birds observed at different places in the State.

AROOSTOOK COUNTY.—Mr. L. W. Robbins writing from Houlton, April 4, 1916, states: "About three weeks ago I saw a flock of six, two in mature plumage. There is not the slightest doubt of their presence in large numbers in this part of the state this winter."

WASHINGTON COUNTY.—Mr. Clarence H. Clark of Lubec, wrote:—"January first to April first, several small flocks visited Eastern Maine and were seen at Millbridge, Steuben, Machias, Calais and Lubec." Prof. Wm. L. Powers principal of the Washington (County) Normal School, wrote on April 10:—"We have had a large flock of Evening Grosbeaks here in Machias since February: the largest number reported to me by any one person is seventeen seen at one time."

HANCOCK COUNTY.—In the same letter Prof. Powers stated that one had been reported to him from Sullivan.

On March 19, 1916 Miss Cordelia J. Stanwood wrote from Ellsworth that she had seen a male that day, and the birds had been reported in town for about three weeks. Mrs. Augusta (W. H.) Gardiner of Bucksport wrote:—"I first saw the birds on December 31, 1915. There were but two of them. In January, 1916, small flocks numbering from four or five to a dozen were seen. . . . About February 17 they seemed to increase in numbers to forty or fifty: they stayed through April and along into May, my latest date is May 11, [1916]."

PENOBSCOT COUNTY.—Jan. 13, 1916, Dr. Wallace Craig at Orono, wrote: "Two of us saw a flock of Evening Grosbeaks here yesterday." Dr. Craig furnished a carefully prepared copy of observations in his possession showing date, place, number of birds and name of observer. This report shows dates between Jan. 12 and April 10, 1916, at Orono, chiefly on the State University campus, and at Bangor and Stillwater. Twenty is the largest number reported (seen March 5), in the list, with most of the definite numbers ranging between this number and ten.

The list shows the larger numbers to have been observed from March 4 (eighteen) to March 19 (fifteen). Norman Lewis in the 'Bangor Commercial' for April, 1916 published a signed letter reporting over a hundred seen at Hampden. Later in 'Bird-Lore'

Mr. Lewis<sup>1</sup> stated that they were first seen in Hampden, March 17 and remained until April 26, and that the large flock mentioned was seen on April 1.

SOMERSET COUNTY.—On April 16, 1916 Mr. J. Merton Swain, who travels extensively in south central Maine, reported Evening Grosbeaks in the following Somerset County towns:—Bingham, Flagstaff, New Portland, North Anson, Pittsfield, Solon, and Skowhegan, in flocks of from ten or fifteen to forty and fifty, with adult males predominating.

KENNEBEC COUNTY.—From Mr. Arch Hiram Morrell, of Gardiner, we have the information that the birds were noticed in Gardiner about the first of March, remaining as late as April 20. The first flock contained eight, about half males, while the largest flock seen at his place, on April 5, contained over seventeen birds. Mr. Morrell states, "about half were always males." In a later letter, he states that some remained until May 17.

On May 7, 1916, Miss Dora M. Norton, whose home is in Gardiner, wrote that a flock had been near her home "for something like two weeks when I left home nearly two weeks ago." There were twenty-five or thirty of the birds. Mr. Alton S. Pope reported two seen at Manchester, March 11 and stated that they had been reported from Augusta and Winthrop. Mr. J. Merton Swain (April 16) stated that he had seen flocks in Mt. Vernon, Readfield and Waterville.

KNOX COUNTY.—June 12, 1916, Mrs. Adelaide C. Bird, of Rockland, reported in full the bird's occurrence at that place. From her report we take this summary. First seen, Feb. 16, a young male; a dozen March 7; large flocks April 9; and small numbers seen at various dates through April. The last were seen April 28. Mr. Niven C. Kallock, of Warren, reported Feb. 13 one male; Feb. 15 two males and a female, and two on April 2, all at Warren; and a male at Thomaston, March 27.

SAGADAHOC COUNTY.—Miss Nellie F. Donton of Bath on April 3, reported that a pair had been seen there. A week later she sent a clipping from the Bath 'Daily Times' of April 13, reporting that the teachers and pupils of the Weeks Street Grammar school had

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<sup>1</sup> 1916: Lewis, *Bird-Lore*, XVIII: 368.

observed a flock of over fifty Evening Grosbeaks in woods at the foot of Cherry Street in that city.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.—Resuming Mr. Swain's long list of stations we find the following Franklin County towns — Eustis, and Stratton, Farmington, Kingfield, Phillips and Strong. At Farmington, writes Mr. Swain, "They came early in January, and have been feeding on the bank in front of my house every day since." In a more recent letter, he states that on Sunday, May 28, 1916, they were in the usual numbers, "and on Monday morning I heard them as I went to take the train . . . we counted about thirty-five or forty on the 28th."

ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY.—Carrie E. Miller has reported the appearance of the birds at Lewiston, Dec. 31, 1915. Seventeen were present late in January, increasing later to thirty-five.<sup>1</sup>

OXFORD COUNTY.—Letters from Mrs. Albert D. Park of South Paris furnished the earliest record for the season, Nov. 27, 1915, when a female came to her premises, and "was here for some weeks before others were seen." On Jan. 9, 1916, eighteen were present, and she counted twenty-five in one flock during the winter. On April 4 she wrote, "three pairs or more were here yesterday." and later: "A female Evening Grosbeak was seen in our Village on June 4th." In her note of April 4 she stated, "They have been coming about four years."

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—A single immature male was seen by Miss Gertrude Morse, at Cape Elizabeth, Jan. 18, 1916. Miss Morse also furnished a report of the occurrence of four males and one female seen at Gorham, Feb. 19, 1916. March 3, 1916 Mr. Eben Corey reported the observation of two males at the Western Cemetery, Portland. The birds took up permanent quarters in this western section of the city, increasing considerably in numbers until late March, when they decreased. After March 31 the writer failed to find them or to hear of their presence until April 11, when a single female was found at the cemetery. On May 5 Mr. Storrs Brigham observed about a dozen there. On May 8 four females rewarded his search and on May 9 and 10 he saw apparently the same birds. May 10 is the latest reported

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<sup>1</sup> 1916: Miller, *Bird-Lore*, XVIII: 180.

occurrence in Portland this season. During March occasional small groups, pairs or single birds were reported as seen in other parts of Portland, but so far as the writer learned none became settled for any length of time, except those at the Western section.<sup>1</sup>

At Brunswick Miss Edith Boardman saw five females on March 12 and a male and a female March 20, 1916. On March 14 Philip Cobb wrote: "Seven Evening Grosbeaks on the campus (Bowdoin College, Brunswick) today." Dr. O. A. Gross also wrote, "I saw a flock of seven on Bowdoin Campus (Brunswick) from March 18th to March 30th, 1916." At Pine Point, in Scarborough, Mr. Fred S. Walker saw five in his garden on several occasions, between March 27 and March 31, 1916. In a letter in the 'Portland Daily Press' of April 17, Mrs. Reuben Johnson reported a flock of "at least twenty April 14th and 15th on Long Island, in Casco Bay." At South Windham Mr. Fred Shaw saw "about twelve April 11th" (1916). At Westbrook Mrs. F. M. Ray saw two at Saccarappa cemetery which remained all day Feb. 25, 1916, while a short distance away, two were seen early in March for several days. On May 6 Mrs. Ray saw a single female.

YORK COUNTY.—Mr. Wm. E. Bary of Kennebunk reported several single birds, and small flocks of from four to six at various times during the winter in different parts of that town. Mrs. Fred P. Abbott, of Saco, also reported their presence in Saco and Biddeford.

The season of 1916-17 again found the birds in Maine, from Nov. 4, 1916, to June 2, 1917.

The winter was one of the coldest for many years, with an unusual amount of snow which covered the ground from December well through the month of March. In the city of Portland, the Rowan, Red, and Black Cherry trees, which in other seasons have afforded these birds much winter food, had borne no fruit. These conditions may partly explain the fact that the birds usually appeared in wandering bands, until the ground became bare in late March and April, when they again became settled for the remainder of their stay. But while the snow covered the ground the birds

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<sup>1</sup> In *Bird-Lore*, 1916, XVIII: 249. Miss Sara C. Eastman reports the occurrence of the birds at Portland.

were seen for a few days in a place while some food was available. or they made a single visit and were not seen again.

A considerable number of local reports were gathered, again showing a wide invasion, and the number of birds present, rather large.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.—On January 27, 1917, Mr. Clarence H. Clark wrote, "The Evening Grosbeaks are visiting this section again this winter: have heard of no large flocks, only scattering birds."

PENOBSCOT COUNTY.—Arch Hiram Morrell under date of December 31, 1916 wrote "I have met some people who said the Evening Grosbeaks were staying in Bangor. They had seen them since about two weeks before Christmas. There were five in all, four males. The birds visited a Pine tree near their house, apparently getting food near the tips of the branches."

Mrs. Mary L. Morse, of Orono, on April 28, 1917, wrote, "The Evening Grosbeaks were here this winter but in less numbers, and people who saw them both winters seem to think they were not as frequently seen.—They were reported several times during the winter by members of the club who live in Bangor."

KENNEBEC COUNTY.—Miss Dora Norton, on April 18, 1917 wrote from Gardiner: "The flock this year is about" going from a point "in Farmingdale, about a quarter of a mile as the crow flies. They have been seen in quite another part of the city, in the vicinity of Lincoln Avenue."

SAGadahoc COUNTY.—Miss Nellie F. Dunton, under date of March 30, 1917 says, "Dr. E. J. Marston saw a flock of possibly twenty-five three weeks ago last Sunday [i. e. Feb. 18, 1917] in the outskirts of Bath, mostly grey, only two or three yellow that he could see. He saw four of them some two or three weeks earlier on Center Street in town."

CUMBERLAND COUNTY.—Early in February, Philip Cobb reported that he had seen two males and three females on January 26 and 27 on the campus of Bowdoin College in Brunswick. April 5, 1917 Dr. Alfred O. Gross of Bowdoin College, wrote, "Mr. G. H. Brewster, who is specializing in bird work here, reports a group of seven, which were seen most every day from January 16th to February 5th and again March 1st (1917). I have two records

for Brunswick, January 20th, five; and February 25th, three." In Portland the first reports came to hand on January 11, 1917 and through that month, February, March and April, flocks of from five to twenty were seen at Cape Elizabeth, Portland, East Deering, Deering Center and Westbrook.

The writer saw seven in the western cemetery, Portland, May 4 and they were said to have been present several days later. At Falmouth Foreside Mr. Walter H. Rich saw an adult male in his garden June 2 at close range, and later in the day it returned with a dull colored companion. None were seen after this date.

OXFORD COUNTY.—Mrs. Albert D. Park wrote "I first observed the Evening Grosbeaks November 4th, 1916, [at South Paris] and they have been here all winter. March 26th [1917], I heard them, but as I went away for the week cannot say that they are there now [April 1]." Last fall the largest number seen was thirty-three; later from eight to fifteen."

YORK COUNTY.—Mr. John F. Dana of Portland, reported a small flock seen by him in the town of Alfred.

Gifted with a striking richness of plumage, a phlegmatic disposition in which fear is but poorly developed, having a written history<sup>1</sup> in which mystery, and romance have been involved, and having invaded a wide territory within a relatively short time, the Evening Grosbeak has received much attention wherever it has appeared. Hence it has an extensive, though scattered and fragmentary literature, in which its history, its winter habits, its food prefer-

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<sup>1</sup> The bird was first collected by an Indian boy at St. Sault Marie, M. (Michigan) T. (territory) April 7th, 1823 and sent by H. R. Schoolcraft, an early American scientist, to Wm. Cooper, who described it as new in 1825 (Ann. N. Y. Lyc. N. H. 1: pt. ii: 219, 221). It was believed to be crepuscular, remaining in the deep shade of evergreens woods by day, sallying forth with "A singular strain" at twilight: hence the names *vespertina*, Evening Grosbeak, and *Hesperiphona*. Audubon's account (Orn. Bio. IV: 575) pertains chiefly to the subspecies long recognized as *H. v. montana* Ridg. part. probably *H. v. californica* Grinnell. Brewer's treatment 1874 (Hist. N. Am. Bds. I: 449), is a history of the entire species as then known. Coues, "History of the Evening Grosbeak," 1879 (Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. IV: 65, 75), is a review of the genus *Hesperiphona* in which of course *vespertina* is the central figure. Butler's Notes on the Evening Grosbeak, 1892 (Auk, IX: 238, 247), is a review chiefly of *H. vespertina vespertina* up to the close of the winter of 1889-90. In this paper the geographical features of its migration are predominant. A considerable number of summaries of its local occurrence have appeared in faunal lists and other regional papers.

Roberts' 'The Evening Grosbeak in Minnesota,' 1910 (Bull. Minn. Acad. Sci. IV: 406, 414) is a monographic article of general interest.



ences and feeding habits, its anatomy, its migration, and its habits in captivity have been more or less fully told.

A survey of this extensive literature shows that its migration eastward has been accomplished by a gradual range extension, rather than by a sudden invasion.

In 1825,<sup>1</sup>—if not a few years earlier, according to Schoolcraft, the species was said to be common about the head of Lake Superior at Fond du Lac, etc., and during the first week of April 1823, a small flock was observed at Sault St. Marie, Michigan, from which the type was taken. It is also stated in the same article that in August of the same year Maj. Dealfield observed a small flock near the Savannah River, northwest of Lake Superior.

For about thirty years it seems to have received no public notice, and whether it made visits to this southeastern part of its range is not known.

In 1853, P. R. Hoy<sup>2</sup> still reported it as "not uncommon" in Wisconsin.

During the early fifties it began to make its appearance farther and farther to the eastward, with more or less regularity and increasing frequency.

In 1854 a flock of five or six visited Toronto in December<sup>3</sup> and since the bird was present near Hamilton in April 1855,<sup>4</sup> we find possible if not probable evidence of wintering.

In 1858 it was observed and at least one specimen taken in northern Illinois.<sup>5</sup>

In March 1860, small numbers were present near Cleveland, Ohio.<sup>6</sup>

During the winter of 1861 and '62, it was present in the northern part of Huron County, Ontario,<sup>7</sup> and in May, 1863, at

<sup>1</sup> 1825. Cooper quoting Schoolcraft, Ann. Lyc. N. H., N. Y., I: 221.

<sup>2</sup> Hoy, 1853. Proc. Phil. Acad., N. S., VI: 383. Here we may notice also Dr. Hoy's remarks on "Man's Influence on the Avifauna of Wisconsin" (1855, Proc. Nat. Hist. Soc. Wisc.) as having some possible bearing upon the initial migration eastward. He says: "*Hesperiphona vespertina* was formerly not uncommon in late fall and early spring in the Maple forests feeding on the seeds. . . . None have been seen here for the last twenty years. The Sugar Maple groves are nearly all converted into cordwood and the wheat occupies the site once visited by this northwestern bird."

<sup>3</sup> 1885: Seton, Auk, 11: 334. I have not seen Cottle's paper 1855, Can. Journ. III: 287.

<sup>4</sup> 1892: Garnier, Proc. Can. Inst. III: 88.

<sup>5</sup> 1859: Cassin, Proc. Phil. Acad., N. S., X: 191.

<sup>6</sup> 1860: Kirtland, Ohio Farmer: March 24.

<sup>7</sup> 1892: Garnier, Proc. Can. Inst. III: 88.

Woodstock, Ontario.<sup>1</sup> In 1865 one was taken in Huron County, Ontario.<sup>2</sup>

In 1866 it was included, without comment, in the list of birds observed in or near New York city.<sup>3</sup>

Butler, omitting McIlwraith's 1863 record, cites him as reporting it at Woodstock, Ontario, May, 1866. I find no other published report of this occurrence (?).<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Morris Gibbs reported its occurrence at Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Michigan, in March, 1869.<sup>5</sup> In 1870, it was seen at Minneapolis in November,<sup>6</sup> and at Toronto in late December,<sup>7</sup> while through the winter of 1870-71 large flocks were recorded from Freeport, Illinois.<sup>8</sup>

Butler regards this as the "First extensive wandering of the Evening Grosbeak."<sup>9</sup>

Nelson, in commenting on its abundance in Northern Illinois in the winter of 1871, says of the next winter [i. e. 1872], "Much rarer . . . I am told that formerly it was of much more regular occurrence."<sup>10</sup>

During the autumn "About 1872" six were secured from a small flock near Eureka, Illinois, about one hundred and twenty miles south of the place mentioned by Brewer.<sup>11</sup>

The following spring, March, 1873, it was observed at Kalamazoo, Michigan, indicating possible wintering south of the Lakes.<sup>12</sup> In 1874—date not given—one was shot in Huron County, Ontario.<sup>13</sup>

Some time during the winter of 1875, one was seen at Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York, by Mr. Cutting.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 1883: McIlwraith, *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. VIII*: 146. Butler cites McIlwraith, May 1866; a typographical error?

<sup>2</sup> 1892: Garnier, *Proc. Can. Inst. III*: 88.

<sup>3</sup> 1866: Lawrence, *Ann. Lyc. N. H., N. Y., VIII*: 289.

<sup>4</sup> 1892: Butler, *Auk, IX*.

<sup>5</sup> 1892: Butler, *Auk, IX*: 240.

<sup>6</sup> 1892: Hatch, *Birds Minn.* 291.

<sup>7</sup> 1885: Seton, *Auk, II*: 334.

<sup>8</sup> 1874: Brewer, *Hist. N. Am. Bds. I*: 452.

<sup>9</sup> 1892: Butler, *Auk, IX*: 247.

<sup>10</sup> 1876: Nelson, *Bull. Essex Inst. VIII*: 104.

<sup>11</sup> 1881: Hay, *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl. VI*: 179.

<sup>12</sup> 1892: Butler, *Auk, IX*: 240.

<sup>13</sup> 1892: Garnier, *Proc. Can. Inst. III*: 88.

<sup>14</sup> 1875: Brewer, *Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. XVII*: 451.

It is unfortunate that the last two records are without specific dates, which would enable us to determine whether they belong to one or to two seasons.

The season of 1878-79<sup>1</sup> found the birds in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, from Nov. 20 to May 6, and as far south as Lafayette, Indiana,<sup>2</sup> where one was taken, and as far west as Minnesota.<sup>3</sup>

In 1883-84 a migration of noteworthy proportions occurred, in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa,<sup>4</sup> with records from Indiana,<sup>5</sup> and New York — the date of the last being July 8, 1882.<sup>6</sup>

In 1886-87 another extensive migration was observed, when the birds were more or less abundant,—sometimes in considerable numbers, from Wisconsin and Iowa, to New York, and from Ontario to Kentucky. The next migration 1889-90 carried the bird into Minnesota, Montreal and Maine, and southward to Pennsylvania. Since that time its occurrence in parts of the region east of Lake Michigan has been frequent and migrations of larger proportions have occurred in the easternmost states in 1910-11, 1915-16 and 1916-17.

With due consideration of the fact that we are dealing with a member of the *Coccothraustinæ*, a group in which many of the species are noted for the irregularity of their migrations we have found in the review just taken that the bird under consideration has been constantly extending its winter range eastward since 1854. It should also be remembered that the blank period in the bird's history between 1823 and 1853, as well as that in the early eighties, when its records begin to multiply, are periods when there were but few observers, and perhaps even fewer mediums of publication, to say nothing of the undeveloped habit of publishing personal observations. And we find to day, much force in Butler's statement,—“had there been the number of observers at those times there are now, we should have learned more of the extent of those dispersals.”

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<sup>1</sup> 1879; Gibbs, *Bull. U. S. Geol. Surv. Terr.* V: 486.

<sup>2</sup> 1892; Butler, *Auk*, IX: 240.

<sup>3</sup> 1910; Roberts, *Bull. Minn. Acad. Sci.* IV: 409.

<sup>4</sup> 1888; Cooke, *Bull. 2, U. S. Div. Econ. Orn.* 178.

<sup>5</sup> 1892; Butler, *Auk*, IX: 240, 241.

<sup>6</sup> Coues: *Bull. Nutt. Orn. Cl.* VII: 250.

*Hesperiphona* is a genus with two known species which find suitable conditions for summer in the coniferous areas of alpine and boreal regions. The residents of alpine sections, retreat to the lowlands with more or less frequency in winter. Its ancient excursions to lower levels to escape severe conditions or famine must have been changed to wider ranging in search for food in winter which was always to be found in increasing abundance southward, producing eventually a definite migration southward as the need became urgent.

Increasing population, constantly pressing its members farther and farther southeastward, sooner or later found this subspecies at the practical southern limit of the coniferous forests in the Middle West. Such a condition in a prolific race would result in stagnation and decline through over population and competition; in a forced adaptation to widely different conditions in the land to the southward; or in a further invasion of the vast suitable region to the eastward.

It seems to require no draft upon the imagination, and no step into the realm of speculation, to realize that in this hasty review of this interesting history, we have seen the Evening Grosbeak, forced against the impassable barrier to its southern migration at the prairie region, slowly and steadily take its way eastward, to the Atlantic coast. Thus has our generation witnessed a species overflowing the bounds of its original habitat, and forming its route of migration along the line of congenial conditions as they exist to day!

Time is replete with instances no less remarkable than this, but it is indeed rare that man is permitted to witness them in the making.